



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

Bill information:

HB0603 - Provide for reinstatement of parental rights (Galloway, Steven)

Status: As Introduced

- Significant Local Gov Impact
 Needs to be included in HB 2
 Technical Concerns
 Included in the Executive Budget
 Significant Long-Term Impacts
 Dedicated Revenue Form Attached

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund		----- unknown -----		
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>#VALUE!</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Description of fiscal impact: HB 603 establishes a new procedure for children to petition a court to reinstate previously terminated parental rights. The Office of the State Public Defender would incur increased costs associated with assigning counsel to represent such children in those proceedings. The Judicial Branch would incur costs associated with increased judicial workload. Costs of implementing HB 603 are cannot be quantified.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:**Office of the State Public Defender (OPD)**

- OPD assumes it will be appointed to provide counsel only for the petitioning child, not for the previously terminated parents or other parties.
- OPD assumes such child representation will have the same weight as appointment to represent a child in a current DN proceeding: 20 case weight hours.
- OPD assumes the total expense per attorney hour will be at the contract rate of \$71 due to OPD's FTE attorneys currently being at maximum caseloads.
- OPD has no ability to quantify the number of cases based upon available data because the procedure created by this bill would be an entirely new type of petition procedure.
- The total expense per new reinstatement case will be 20 hours x \$71, totaling \$1,420.

- 6. It is unknown how many bills are seeking to add to the duties of the Office of Public Defender. The fiscal note of each bill is prepared based on the effect of each individual bill. However, when viewed as a package, the cumulative effect of passage of more than one bill would require additional analysis and may require additional resources. OPD may not be able to absorb the work required to defend individuals based upon this legislation.

Judicial Branch

- 7. District courts are required by law to give child abuse and neglect cases highest priority in setting hearing dates. The new hearing established by this bill would increase judicial workload and may delay adjudication of other case types. The Judicial Branch is unable to estimate the impact on judicial workload or the fiscal impact. The cumulative impact of such legislation may over time require additional judicial resources because generally court dockets are full throughout the state.
- 8. Under Title 41, chapter 3, a judge may appoint a guardian ad litem (GAL) to act in the best interest of the child at the court’s expense. The Judicial Branch currently pays an hourly rate of \$62 for appointed GALs. HB 603 would increase the number of GALs appointed and the number of hours billed by GALs each fiscal year, however the Judicial Branch is unable to estimate the number of cases and costs.

Technical Notes:

- 1. If HB 603 becomes law, costs to the Office of the State Public Defender and the Judicial Branch could be significant in the 2025 Biennium.

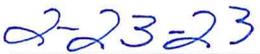
NOT SIGNED BY SPONSOR

Sponsor’s Initials

Date



Budget Director’s Initials



Date